

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the abstract of the disclosure as follows:

An elevator-type mechanism ~~is disclosed~~ which raises and lowers an animal into desired vertical position to facilitate treatment of injuries, treatment of illnesses, grooming, and the like of the animal.

Please replace Paragraph [0020] of the specification with the following paragraph: Referring to Fig. 4, the raising and lowering system 10 is shown without the presence of an animal 14. A pair of spaced apart end rails 34, a first side rail 35, and a second side rail 37 cooperate to form a generally rectangular area of confinement. The end rails 34 and the side rail 35 include a plurality of holes 48 along their length. The end rails 34 are hingedly mounted to the side rail 35 or the side rail 37 to swing through the radius R and out of the way to permit ingress and egress of an animal 14. A first extensible rail 44 having spaced apart opposing ends and containing holes 39 along its length is provided. The ends of the rail 44 terminate in brackets 41 that include locking pins 46. The rail 44 includes a first member 43 which is received inside the hollow interior of a second member 45. The second member includes a locking pin 47 which may be inserted into an aligned hole 39 of the first member 43 to attach the first member 43 to the second member 45. The length of the rail 44 can be adjusted by inserting the locking pin 47 into an alternate hole 39. The rail 44 is attached to the end rails 34 by aligning and inserting the locking pins 46 into the holes 48 of the end rails 34. The locking pins 46 can be inserted into different holes 48 along the length of the end rails 34. Other conventional locking mechanisms can be used such as clamp type, for example. A second extensible rail 44' having a structure substantially identical to the first extensible rail 44 is provided. The first end of the rail 44' is attached to the first extensible rail 44 by aligning and inserting an associated locking pin 47' into an aligned hole 39 of the first extensible rail 44. The length of the second extensible rail 44' can be altered to accommodate different positions of the first extensible rail 44 on the end rails 34 by inserting the locking pin 47' into an alternate hole 39'. The second end of the rail 44' is attached to the side rail 35 by aligning and inserting an associated locking pin 46' into an aligned hole 48 of the side rail 35. The locking pins 46' can be aligned and inserted into different holes 39 and 48 along the length of the first extensible rail 44 and the side rail 34. The extensible rails 44 and 44' cooperate with the rails 34, 35, and 37 to create a relatively rectangular area of confinement. Alternate positioning of either or both of the extensible rails 44 and 44' changes the area of confinement. It is understood that what has been disclosed is the preferred

embodiment of the invention. Alternate components may be used to form the rail structure described above without departing from the scope of the invention. Non-extensible rails may be used instead of extensible rails 44 and 44', for example. In that instance, a non-extensible intermediate rail is substituted for extensible rail 44, and a series of non-extensible rails is provided and one is selected and substituted for extensible rail 44'. The non-extensible rails each have a different length, and one is selected depending on the position of the non-extensible intermediate rail along the end rails 34.